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NEWS — FEATURES — EVENTS'

Winchester's summer concerts on the common are back

NELL ESCOBAR COAKLEY | STAFF WRITER

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Glen Doyle and his band, Jagged Image, play at one of the past summer concerts. COURTESY PHOTO/WINCHESTER RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Strike up the band — or more accurately, the bands — because it'

that means the Recreation Department's summer concerts are sta

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That's right, starting July 10, concerts will be held on the town common every Wednesday evening, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The program ends Aug. 14.

"We try to do a variety of music," said Program Supervisor Mitch Ulacco, of this year's selection. "We have classic rock, blues and jazz and we have one family friendly band doing children's tunes."

The concerts have been an ongoing town event for a number of years under the direction of Glen Doyle, but he has since retired.

"He left a great outline and a lot of contacts and resources," Ulacco said, of his predecessor. "We have a lot of sponsors who do this year after year like En Ka, the Rotary, the banks, Fells Hardware."

Usually, bands make inquiries of interest and ask what the availability is. Ulacco said they also send a sample of their music.

"If I could choose them all, I would," he said. "I try to get something that's not too similar so that we have a good variety each week."

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A look at the 2024 Winchester Summer Concerts lineup. COURTESY PHOTO/WINCHESTER RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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This year, Ulacco said half the bands returning are old favorites and half are new finds. He said it's the type of music his own parents, who attend the concerts, usually like.

"People in town like all kinds of different music," he said. "I think we have bands that will bring them in."

A Winchester native, Ulacco said this year will be very similar to last year. But that doesn't mean he doesn't have some ideas and plans of his [illegible] the coming seasons.

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"I'd like to get an outside vendor to bring in some games for kids during the concerts," he said. "And I'd like to do some raffles, things like that."

Ulacco said the concerts usually bring in between 40 to 100 people each week, with families bringing chairs and picnics to enjoy the evening. And even though it's been hot, he said usually by the time the concerts begin, the night has cooled down.

"We usually only cancel if it rains," he said. "And then we usually just push it back a day."

And if you miss it? Well, Ulacco said you can always catch the performances on WinCam, which streams and tapes them.

Winchester remains one of the few communities that still have evening concerts. Ulacco said the Recreation Department applies for grants from the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the Rotary every year. Additional sponsors, he said, also give money for the program.

He added the funds from grants and sponsors cover the cost of the performers and give all sponsors spots on concert advertising, promotions, newsletters and brochures.

He said the concerts are a tradition in the community, and one residents look forward to each year.

"In my experience, people show up early and select their places," he said. "They bring people with them and it's just a really nice event."

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The following was submitted by the Office of Rep. Michael S. Day: Rep. Michael S. Day and his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

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Sen. Jason Lewis, Mass. Senate strengthen fair housing protections for renters, buyers

The following was submitted by the Office of Sen. Jason Lewis: State Sen. Jason Lewis joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts Senate to pass legislation that protects residents from discrimination in the housing market as the Trump administration abandons its enforcement of the federal Fair Housing Act. Illegal discrimination continues

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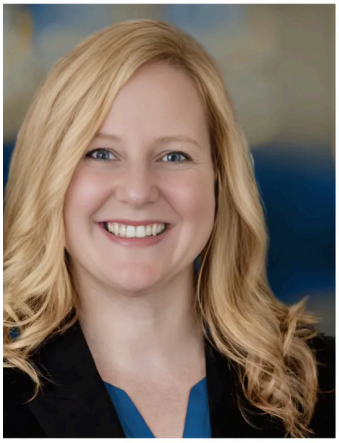
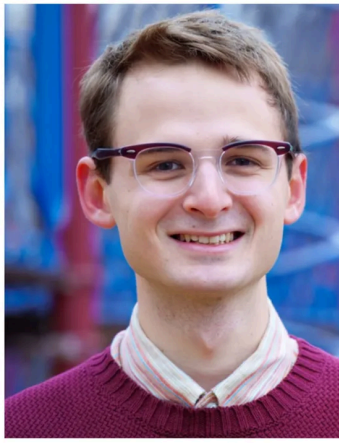
Celebrate Women's History Month with Girls Leading Change

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women's History Month and International Women's Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and





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'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents "Chicago: Teen Edition," a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. This iconic production is set in the 1920s. Performances will take place on March 13 and 14

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Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents 'Syldason: You Are Welcome Here'

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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